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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 48/40 D of 10 December 1993.

2. The report includes the substance of responses from Member States and United Nations agencies to the appeal contained in that resolution, together with reference to further action taken by Member States and United Nations agencies in response to the appeal contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/90 F of 13 December 1977, 33/112 C of 18 December 1978, 34/52 C of 23 November 1979, 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991 and 47/69 D of 14 December 1992. By these resolutions the Assembly appealed to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees; invited the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students; and requested the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to act as the recipient and trustee for such special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified refugee candidates.

3. In 1993-1994, the Government of Japan awarded 11 fellowships, through UNRWA, to Palestine refugees who are employed by UNRWA as vocational training

staff at the UNRWA headquarters branch in Amman and at the eight vocational training centres in the UNRWA area of operations. Applications of nominees for these fellowships were processed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The fellowships, which apply to studies in Japan, are under the guidance of JICA. A review of this programme shows that since its inception in 1985 and until 1994, a total of 115 fellowships has been offered by the Government of Japan under the programme, of which 103 have been processed. In 1989, the Government of Japan contributed $1 million to be spent over a five-year period, towards the UNRWA university scholarship programme for secondary school graduates. The recipients are Palestine refugee students from the occupied territory. A total of 143 recipients participated in the programme in 1993-1994. In addition, in 1992 the Government of Japan contributed $400,000, to be spent over a five-year period, towards the UNRWA university scholarships programme for secondary school graduates from the UNRWA area of operations; the recipients are Palestine refugee students. A total of 138 recipients participated in the programme in 1993-1994. These awards, while not specifically in response to the General Assembly resolutions, are in keeping with their spirit.

4. The Government of Switzerland contributed $180,000 in 1989 to the UNRWA university scholarships programme for secondary school graduates and contributed an additional $213,000, $197,300, $197,300 and $209,790 to the programme in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993, respectively. The recipients, who total 185 Palestine refugee students from the UNRWA area of operations, participated in the programme in the 1993/94 academic year. The awards, while not specifically in response to the General Assembly resolutions, are in keeping with their spirit.

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as part of its long-standing agreement with UNRWA, granted 175 fellowships to Palestine refugee education staff of UNRWA in the period 1981 to 1994. The Director-General addressed a circular letter on 25 February 1994 to member States, international organizations and Arab and Islamic funding sources appealing for voluntary contributions to a special fund for fellowships for Palestinian students and requesting them to consider providing sponsored fellowships for Palestinians. This circular letter was in accordance with decision 5.3.1 adopted by the UNESCO Executive Board at its one hundred and forty-second session. During the 1993/94 academic year, UNESCO awarded 28 scholarships to Palestinian students under the regional project entitled "Scholarship fund for higher education for students of occupied Arab territories", 17 scholarships from its regular programme and budget and 3 scholarships under its Participation Programme, totalling $213,500. Under the inter-university cooperation programme PEACE (Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education) funded by UNESCO and the European Union and signed in September 1992, two scholarships were awarded and seven short-term study visits to Palestinian university professors were awarded in the amount of $37,000.

6. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued to offer a post-graduate training fellowship programme aimed at developing the technical and managerial skills of the staff of the UNRWA Department of Health and at meeting future replacement needs under the various health disciplines. One Palestinian refugee

health staff member of UNRWA benefited from these WHO international fellowships in 1993. WHO has awarded more than 36 such fellowships since 1986.

7. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) offered to UNRWA scholarships to train Agency staff members during the training years 1994 and 1995. Three applications were submitted, which will be considered for courses to be conducted during 1995.

8. The United World Colleges continued their cooperation with UNRWA by offering scholarships to Palestine refugee students who complete the tenth grade to study for two years leading to the international baccalaureate. In 1993-1994, two scholarships were offered by Pearson College in Canada and Armand Hammer College in the United States of America, while in 1994, three scholarships were offered by the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, Pearson College in Canada and Armand Hammer College in the United States.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 48/40 E of 10 December 1993, the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Demands once again that Israel desist from the removal and resettlement of Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 and from the destruction of their shelters;

"2. Requests the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to address the acute situation of the Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967 and accordingly to extend all the services of the Agency to those refugees;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Commissioner-General, to resume issuing identification cards to all Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied Palestinian territory, irrespective of whether or not they are recipients of rations and services of the Agency;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-ninth session, on the implementation of the present resolution and, in particular, on the compliance of Israel with paragraph 1 above."

2. On 27 July 1994, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. In a note verbale dated 27 July 1994, the Permanent Representative of Israel replied as follows:

"Israel's position on these resolutions has been set forth in successive annual replies submitted to the Secretary-General in recent years, the latest of which being Israel's note verbale dated 15 June 1993. In addition, Israel's representative to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee reiterated Israel's position in his statement dated 8 December 1993 in which he said, inter alia, 'The series of resolutions on UNRWA ignores the new political reality following the agreement between Israel and the PLO, as well as the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.' Accordingly, Israel abstained on resolutions 48/40 A and D, and voted against resolutions 48/40 E to J.

"It should be noted that, in the past year, major progress has been achieved in the framework of the peace process, including the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington, D.C. on 13 September 1993 by Israel and the PLO, and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994. Israel believes that UNRWA can play an important role in promoting the social and economic advancement foreseen in the agreements between Israel and the PLO, and accordingly looks forward to continuing the cooperation and good working relationship with UNRWA.

"In the light of the above, Israel considers it essential, now more than ever, that the General Assembly focus its resolutions regarding UNRWA on the issues directly related to the Agency's humanitarian tasks and that it refrain from adopting resolutions related to political issues irrelevant to the work for which UNRWA is responsible, and detached from the new reality.

"To this end, it would be advisable to consolidate the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly regarding UNRWA into one resolution. This would also be compatible with the necessity to rationalize the work of the General Assembly."

4. The following information concerning Israel's compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/40 E is based on reports from the Commissioner-General of UNRWA.

5. During the period under review, the Israeli authorities continued to demolish and seal refugee shelters in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on punitive grounds. The matter is dealt with in detail in the Commissioner-General's annual report to the General Assembly. 1/

6. The Agency followed up with the Israeli authorities the rehousing of refugees who remain affected by the demolitions in 1971 in the Gaza Strip. Paragraph 6 of last year's report (A/48/373) referred to the status of 87 families categorized as living in hardship conditions. The situation on 30 June 1994 remains the same: of these 87 families, 12 continue to live in conditions of hardship, 19 remain unsatisfactorily housed, 38 are satisfactorily housed and 18 had previously purchased houses in projects sponsored by the Israeli authorities. The situation of the 12 families living in conditions of hardship has been checked several times during the reporting period. Despite earlier assurances by the Israeli authorities that they would be rehoused, that a solution had been developed and would be implemented as soon as possible, no progress was made.

7. During the reporting period, the Commissioner-General obtained the following information relating to refugee shelters demolished by the Israeli authorities in the Gaza Strip on the grounds that they had been built without proper authority on State land outside camp boundaries:

(a) There has been no change in the situation of the families living on the northern perimeter of Jabalia Camp who, as described in paragraph 7 (a) of last year's report, had been told by the Israeli authorities in 1989 to remove some of their shelter extensions. No demolitions took place during the reporting period, but the shelters remain isolated by the bulldozing of sand around them.

(b) Of the 35 families whose shelters on the perimeter of Beach Camp were demolished in 1983, 18 families now have plots of land at Sheikh Radwan and Beit Lahiya Housing Projects; one family is occupying a vacant shelter in Beach Camp and the situation of the remaining 16 families remains the same as was described in paragraph 7 (b) of last year's report.

8. Regarding the situation of the families who, at the instance of the Israeli authorities, had agreed to relocate from Block Q of Rafah Camp to the Tel-es-Sultan housing project, 10 families remain living in 10 shelters isolated by sand ramparts.

9. During the reporting period, no new plots of land in housing projects in the Gaza Strip were allocated by the Israeli authorities for refugees living in camps. No new movements took place from camps to housing projects and no new plots were allocated. During the reporting period no additional families from Canada camp in Egypt have returned to the Gaza Strip to accommodation provided by the Israeli authorities in Tel-es-Sultan. Developments are under way for the movement of approximately 70 additional families to Tel-es-Sultan in the near future.

10. The Israeli authorities, according to information available to the Commissioner-General, have up to the present time allocated approximately 3,914

plots of land in the Gaza Strip for housing projects. A total of 2,605 plots have been built on by 3,714 refugee families comprising 22,946 persons, buildings on 236 plots are under construction, 936 plots are still vacant and 137 have been built on by non-refugee families. In addition, 3,034 refugee families, consisting of 18,823 persons, have moved into 2,666 completed housing units consisting of 5,893 rooms.

11. With regard to the request addressed to the Commissioner-General in paragraph 2 of resolution 48/40 E, the Commissioner-General advises that since 1988, in addition to providing all its regular services, the Agency has been providing emergency food, medical and other assistance to those in need in the occupied territory. The Agency has also continued with its longer-term programmes to upgrade infrastructure, especially in the camps, and to improve economic and social conditions. These programmes, including in particular the Peace Implementation Programme initiated by the Agency after the signing of the Declaration of Principles on the Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 13 September 1993, are discussed in detail in the recent reports of the Commissioner-General. 2/

12. The Secretary-General regrets that he is unable at present to comply with the request addressed to him in paragraph 3 of the resolution. Under an arrangement that has been followed for 40 years, all refugee families registered with UNRWA are in possession of registration cards issued by the Agency. While these cards indicate the number of family members and whether they are eligible for services, they are not identification cards and have a much more limited purpose. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA has pointed out that the Agency issues a registration card reflecting data about the refugee family concerned, which is entered on the registration roll at the time of registration. While the need for documentation, such as is required in the resolution, is appreciated, the Commissioner-General does not have the means to issue identity cards as such. He will, however, keep the situation under review to see whether appropriate documentation regarding the registration status of individual members of refugee families could be issued.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13), chap. IV, sect. B.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13), chap. II, sect. B; ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/44/13), chap. VI, sects. C and D; ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/45/13), chap. VI, sects. C and D; ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/46/13), chap. VI, sects. C and D; ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/47/13), chap. VI, sects. C and D; ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/48/13), chap. II, sects. D and E; ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13), chap. II, sects. D and E.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 3 of its resolution 48/40 F of 10 December 1993, entitled "Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all displaced inhabitants to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
>
> "2. Calls upon Israel to accelerate the necessary steps for the unimpeded return of all displaced inhabitants;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-ninth session, on the compliance of Israel with paragraph 2 above."

2. On 27 July 1994, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged to take in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. In a note verbale dated 27 July 1994, the Permanent Representative of Israel replied as follows:

> "Israel's position on these resolutions has been set forth in successive annual replies submitted to the Secretary-General in recent years, the latest of which being Israel's note verbale dated 15 June 1993. In addition, Israel's representative to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee reiterated Israel's position in his statement dated 8 December 1993 in which he said, inter alia, 'The series of resolutions on UNRWA ignores the new political reality following the agreement between Israel and the PLO, as well as the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.' Accordingly, Israel abstained on resolutions 48/40 A and D, and voted against resolutions 48/40 E to J.
>
> "It should be noted that, in the past year, major progress has been achieved in the framework of the peace process, including the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington, D.C. on 13 September 1993 by Israel and the PLO, and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994. Israel believes that UNRWA can play an important role in promoting the social and economic advancement foreseen in the agreements between Israel and the PLO, and accordingly looks forward to continuing the cooperation and good working relationship with UNRWA.
>
> "In the light of the above, Israel considers it essential, now more than ever, that the General Assembly focus its resolutions regarding UNRWA on the issues directly related to the agency's humanitarian tasks and that it refrain from adopting resolutions related to political issues irrelevant to the work for which UNRWA is responsible, and detached from the new reality.
>
> "To this end, it would be advisable to consolidate the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly regarding UNRWA into one resolution. This would also be compatible with the necessity to rationalize the work of the General Assembly."

4. In connection with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/40 F, the Secretary-General has obtained from the Commissioner-General of UNRWA the information available to him on the return of refugees registered with the Agency. As indicated in previous reports on the subject, the Agency is not involved in any arrangements for the return of refugees nor is it involved in any arrangements for the return of displaced persons who are not registered as refugees. Its information is based on requests by returning registered refugees for transfer of their entitlements for services to the areas to which they have returned and subsequent correction of records. The Agency would not necessarily be aware of the return of any registered refugees who did not request the provision of services. So far as is known to the Agency, between 1 July 1993 and 30 June 1994, 376 refugees registered with UNRWA returned to the West Bank and 79 to the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that some of these may not themselves have been displaced in 1967, but may be members of the family of a displaced registered refugee whom they accompanied on his return or joined thereafter. Thus, taking into account the estimate given in paragraph 4 of last year's report (A/48/375), the number of displaced registered refugees who are

known by the Agency to have returned to the occupied territories since June 1967 is about 13,200. The Agency is unable to estimate the total number of displaced inhabitants who have returned. It keeps records only of registered refugees and, as pointed out above, even those records, particularly with respect to location of registered refugees, may be incomplete.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Protection of Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 48/40 H of 10 December 1993, entitled "Protection of Palestine refugees", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Holds Israel responsible for the security of the Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and calls upon it to fulfil its obligations as the occupying Power in this regard, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949; 1/
>
> "2. Calls upon all the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the Convention in all circumstances, in conformity with their obligation under article 1 thereof;
>
> "3. Urges the Security Council to remain seized of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory;
>
> "4. Urges the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue their efforts in support of the upholding of the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestine refugees in all the territories under Israeli occupation since 1967;

"5. Calls once again upon Israel to desist forthwith from acts of aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian population in Lebanon, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law;

"6. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, release forthwith all arbitrarily detained Palestine refugees, including the employees of the Agency;

"7. Calls once again upon Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from the invasion of Lebanon by Israel in 1982, without prejudice to the responsibility of the latter for all damages resulting from that invasion, as well as for other damages resulting from the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-ninth session, on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 27 July 1994, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. In a note verbale dated 27 July 1994, the Permanent Representative of Israel replied as follows:

"Israel's position on these resolutions has been set forth in successive annual replies submitted to the Secretary-General in recent years, the latest of which being Israel's note verbale dated 15 June 1993. In addition, Israel's representative to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee reiterated Israel's position in his statement dated 8 December 1993 in which he said, inter alia, 'The series of resolutions on UNRWA ignores the new political reality following the agreement between Israel and the PLO, as well as the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.' Accordingly, Israel abstained on resolutions 48/40 A and D, and voted against resolutions 48/40 E to J.

"It should be noted that, in the past year, major progress has been achieved in the framework of the peace process, including the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington, D.C. on 13 September 1993 by Israel and the PLO, and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994. Israel believes that UNRWA can play an important role in promoting the social and economic advancement foreseen in the agreements between Israel and the PLO, and accordingly looks forward to continuing the cooperation and good working relationship with UNRWA.

"In the light of the above, Israel considers it essential, now more than ever, that the General Assembly focus its resolutions regarding UNRWA

on the issues directly related to the agency's humanitarian tasks and that it refrain from adopting resolutions related to political issues irrelevant to the work for which UNRWA is responsible, and detached from the new reality.

"To this end, it would be advisable to consolidate the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly regarding UNRWA into one resolution. This would also be compatible with the necessity to rationalize the work of the General Assembly."

4. As set out in his annual report for the period 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994, 2/ the Commissioner-General of UNRWA has continued his efforts, with the Secretary-General, in support of the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestine refugees in the occupied territory. In this connection, the Agency's refugee affairs officers and legal officers continued to play an important role in assisting to defuse tensions in situations of potential and actual violence, at times involving Israeli settlers, and in preventing maltreatment of the refugees. In this regard, the Agency also provided help to the refugees to cope with day-to-day problems of their life under occupation, which included the provision of legal advice and a measure of financial assistance to needy refugees seeking legal redress. The Commissioner-General has protested to the Israeli authorities against incidents of excessive use of force, collective punishments and other such measures, as a failure on the part of the Israeli military authorities to uphold standards required under international humanitarian law. With the redeployment of the Israeli security forces away from large areas of the Gaza Strip and from the Jericho area, and the consequent decline in violent incidents involving the Israeli security forces and Palestinians in those areas, the passive protection function as outlined above which was provided by the refugee affairs officers in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area was discontinued by the Agency. A fuller description of the efforts of the Commissioner-General in this regard is contained in his annual report. 2/

5. The annual report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA to the General Assembly reviews the efforts UNRWA has made during the period to continue its programme for the repair and reconstruction of refugee shelters. 3/

6. There has been no progress on the claim by UNRWA against the Government of Israel regarding damage to its property and facilities resulting from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13).

3/ Ibid. (A/49/13), chaps. I, II and IV.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the occupied Palestinian territories

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 48/40 J of 10 December 1993, the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Condemns the repeated Israeli raids on the premises and installations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to refrain from such raids;
>
> "2. Deplores the policy and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which have led to the prolonged closure of educational and vocational institutions, a large number of which are operated by the Agency, and the repeated disruption of medical services;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 27 July 1994, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the

Permanent Representative to inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. In a note verbale dated 27 July 1994, the Permanent Representative of Israel replied as follows:

> "Israel's position on these resolutions has been set forth in successive annual replies submitted to the Secretary-General in recent years, the latest of which being Israel's note verbale dated 15 June 1993. In addition, Israel's representative to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee reiterated Israel's position in his statement dated 8 December 1993 in which he said, inter alia, 'The series of resolutions on UNRWA ignores the new political reality following the agreement between Israel and the PLO, as well as the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.' Accordingly, Israel abstained on resolutions 48/40 A and D, and voted against resolutions 48/40 E to J.
>
> "It should be noted that, in the past year, major progress has been achieved in the framework of the peace process, including the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington, D.C. on 13 September 1993 by Israel and the PLO, and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994. Israel believes that UNRWA can play an important role in promoting the social and economic advancement foreseen in the agreements between Israel and the PLO, and accordingly looks forward to continuing the cooperation and good working relationship with UNRWA.
>
> "In the light of the above, Israel considers it essential, now more than ever, that the General Assembly focus its resolutions regarding UNRWA on the issues directly related to the agency's humanitarian tasks and that it refrain from adopting resolutions related to political issues irrelevant to the work for which UNRWA is responsible, and detached from the new reality.
>
> "To this end, it would be advisable to consolidate the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly regarding UNRWA into one resolution. This would also be compatible with the necessity to rationalize the work of the General Assembly."

4. The following information concerning Israel's compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/40 J is based on reports from the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It covers the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 and relates exclusively to UNRWA educational institutions and other facilities. Further information is contained in the annual report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA 1/ for the above-mentioned period.

5. During the period under review, there were 63 cases of unauthorized entry into UNRWA premises in the West Bank by the Israeli authorities. Of these, 45 related to schools and 4 to health centres. In the Gaza Strip there were 113 such cases, of which 56 related to schools and 32 to health centres. UNRWA has taken up these cases with the Israeli authorities who, in a number of instances,

claimed that UNRWA premises were entered because stones had been thrown from within, or stone-throwers were being chased into the premises.

6. During the same period, there were 63 cases of injury, though no fatalities, among students and trainees at UNRWA educational institutions in the West Bank. The corresponding figures for the Gaza Strip were 1,375 injuries and no fatalities. These casualties were attributable to beatings, tear-gas inhalation, rubber bullets and live ammunition. In addition, a total of 44 students and trainees in the West Bank and 25 in the Gaza Strip were detained, of whom 21 in the West Bank and 19 in the Gaza Strip were released by 30 June 1994.

7. The three UNRWA training centres in the West Bank completed the 1992/93 academic year in August 1993. The 1993/94 academic year began at all three training centres in the course of October 1993 and ended in July 1994. An average of 24 per cent of academic time was lost owing to general strikes, curfews and closures of the occupied territory. Following the massacre at al-Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron on 25 February 1994, the occupied territory was sealed off from Israel and East Jerusalem, and trainees coming from the Gaza Strip and from the southern West Bank were unable to attend the Ramallah Men's Training Centre and the Kalandia Training Centre from 1 March 1994 until 27 May 1994. Out of concern for educational pursuit and the demands of the students who were not allowed to leave Gaza, the Agency requested and obtained permits from the Israeli authorities for students from Gaza attending UNRWA training centres in the West Bank. However, of a total of 333 students from the Gaza Strip attending Ramallah and Kalandia Training Centres, 51 students did not receive permits to study in the West Bank. A special schedule was arranged for Gaza students at the UNRWA training centres in the West Bank to enable them to complete their course requirements. The Gaza Training Centre lost 10 per cent of days as a result of military closure orders and 26 per cent of days owing to general strikes and curfews.

8. In the West Bank, a total of 9 per cent of school time was lost between September 1993 and June 1994, owing primarily to military closures, general strikes and curfews. In the Gaza Strip, the corresponding amount of school time lost was 10 per cent. Alternative places of education were used for teaching classes from schools which were closed by military order.

9. During the reporting period, the Agency provided students in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with distance education and self-learning materials, but such measures can provide only partial compensation for lost classroom time. Preliminary analysis of achievement tests that UNRWA administered to students at the beginning of the 1993/94 academic year in a wide variety of subjects disclosed detrimental effects on the educational performance of students. Remedial measures were undertaken during the 1993/94 academic year to overcome those effects.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/49/13), paras. 122-125 and 134-138.